

Submission
No 950

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE
FACILITIES**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 30 October 2025

Partially
Confidential

Dear Members of Parliament,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed Waste-to-Energy (WtE) facility at the Parkes Special Activation Precinct. My family and I reside on the western side of Parkes, less than five kilometres from the proposed site, and I hold serious concerns regarding the potential impacts this development will have on the health, environment, and wellbeing of our community.

As a resident who relies entirely on rainwater for household use, I am deeply worried about the contamination risks posed by airborne pollutants and ash drift from the facility. Any fallout from the plant could easily settle on roofs and enter rainwater tanks, directly threatening the safety of our drinking water supply.

Parkes and the surrounding region are among New South Wales' key agricultural areas, supporting both local trade and export markets for grain and meat. There has been no clear assurance or independent evidence that emissions and residue from this facility will not affect soil quality, crops, or livestock. Any contamination could have devastating effects not only on our local farmers but also on food safety and market confidence across the state.

Furthermore, the Lachlan River — less than 30 kilometres from the proposed site — forms part of the Murray-Darling Basin system. This is a critical waterway for regional communities and agricultural production. I urge the government to guarantee that water contamination risks have been properly assessed and mitigated, as even minimal pollution could have long-term consequences downstream.

There are also major concerns about transport safety and infrastructure. Increased train movements and heavy vehicle traffic associated with the transport of waste will place additional strain on already busy road and rail networks, raising the risk of accidents and increasing maintenance costs.

Environmental monitoring and transparency are another serious issue. There is no indication that unbiased, independent testing of soil, water, air quality, wind direction, and speed will be conducted and continued on an ongoing basis. When attending the information sessions I was informed that there hadn't been any testing of wind out that side of town and were only looking at the airport which is on the opposite side of town and had different wind direction. Without this, residents cannot have confidence that their environment and health will be protected.

Our local healthcare system is already under immense strain and struggles to attract and retain medical professionals. A development of this nature, with its potential to compromise air and water quality, will further discourage doctors and nurses from working in our community, worsening an already critical shortage. The concerns for the long time medical issues and litigation should be taken into consideration.

The health of regional residents is no less important than that of those living in metropolitan areas. Allowing a facility like this to be built in a regional town is both inequitable and inhumane. Around the world, waste-to-energy plants are being questioned and phased out due to their environmental and health impacts — yet here, we appear to be moving backwards instead of forwards.

Finally, the claim that this plant will generate clean energy is misleading. It will consume a significant portion of the energy it produces simply to operate, and its water consumption during drought periods will compete with community needs — at a time when local water supplies are already under pressure.

For these reasons, I respectfully call on Parliament to reject the proposed Waste-to-Energy facility at the Parkes SAP and to pursue more sustainable and equitable waste management solutions for New South Wales.

Kind regards